

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 18, and 26 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 8, 15, 25, and 26 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 27 has been amended in view of the amendment of base Claim 26. The dependency of Claims 12 and 24 has been changed.

The allowance of Claims 14 and 16-17 is noted with appreciation. Independent Claims 7, 18, and 26, as amended, are now allowable (see item 10 on page 4 of the Office Action), and the remaining claims, which depend upon one of the independent claims are clearly allowable also.

This application is now clearly in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this

and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 8, 2003

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on September 11, 2003.

Nelson H. Shapiro
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